

TIDINGS

IRVING PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
3938 W. BELLE PLAINE AVE. • CHICAGO, IL 60618-1997

Vol. 37, No. 3

March, 2010

A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

Lent is not an easy season for many. Some consider it a dark, sad time in the church- when we seem to use too much of the minor keys in our music and all wander around looking downcast and upset. Others see Lent as a time for self-improvement, turning the entire experience into a weight-loss or anti-chocolate overly individualized project.

Lent is a little of both of these things, but too often we find ourselves going far into the extreme and missing some of the major pieces of these forty days. The stretch of time that beginnings on Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days is not by its nature sad, but it is a time of self-reflection. In a world that rarely takes a moment to pause, and doesn't do particularly well with any kind of criticism, a dedicated time of self-reflection often gets cast as too sad and boring for us to waste our time on. Taking a moment to turn inward and ask ourselves what is going well and what sins are keeping us broken and bruised might not be the easiest of tasks, but this time is not meant to be sad for sorrow's sake. We turn inward because as people of God we need to ask ourselves if we are living into the promises of our baptism.

Also, the point of Lent gets a little lost if all we want to do is jumpstart some weight loss or give up a vice. When people choose to remove something from their life for Lent, it is supposed to be a time when that space left empty can get filled up with God. For some, giving up chocolate is enough to remind them that when they start to feel a little needy, God is there to fill that need. However, when we go to the extreme, and see these coming days as only a time for self-improvement that is all about us alone, we miss the connection to the greater community of all the baptized.

In honor of Lent, Josh and I have chosen to give up buying things. We made this decision in order to remember that each time we make the choice to live on less, we are reminding ourselves that God has already been so gracious to us, and we do not need to consume in order to fill our lives with things. But, this season we chose not only to give something up, but to add something to our days as well. During Lent, each day we are selecting one item in our home to give away. It has been oddly exciting to pick an item each day, knowing that we are sharing the bounty of God's blessings to us with others.

I hope that as we walk through this season together each of you will find a way to see your individual experience of Lent as a part of the greater story of God's people through time. May these days be for us a time of growth and strengthening as a community and as people of faith.

Peace on your journey,

Pastor Petersen

Since we've started a new decade, we've decided to give our Historically Speaking monthly feature a rest until 2011 to make room for a new feature.

"History 100" will appear each month. It will give readers Tidings readers a glimpse into what was happening at IPLC each month at the beginning of a new decade.

As a bonus (or because we didn't think of doing History 100 until this month), we've included stories from January and February so we can get caught up.

We hope you enjoy our new feature!

January

1910: For the month, an average of 194 students attended Sunday School. The figure marked an increase of 49 students from January 1909, when classes averaged 145. The Sunday School offerings for the month totaled \$21.47.

1920: George A. Carlson began his third year as choir director (he resigned in March 1921, but stayed on until that summer when he was replaced by Harry T. Carlson). ... Church membership stood at about 800 members.

1930: Just like it had for the previous 20 years, a clock belonging to the L.M. Nelson family tolled in the new year at midnight on Jan. 1. The congregation arose and sang the Doxology. The bell in the tower rang out its peal of "Happy New Year."

1940: Rev. Joshua Oden began another decade as IPLC pastor and Tidings editor. ... Letters arrived by the dozens from across the United States and Canada, thanking IPLC for broadcasting its Swedish Julotta midnight Christmas service via WCFL.

1950: The Sunday, Jan. 22, Church School session was recorded by WGN and was broadcast at 1 p.m. on Jan. 29. Parents were encouraged to be sure their children attended Sunday School on the 22nd.

1960: The Junior League started publishing a paper that was distributed every Sunday morning to the Confirmation Classes. David Farb was the editor, Janice Fredrickson the co-editor, and the reporters were Karen Lindsay and Art Henniges.

1970: The decade began with Kenneth Farb as pastor, Daniel Ramm student pastor, Monroe Olson choir director and Lillian Carlson organist. ... At the LCW Guild meeting on Jan. 14, the church's young people talked about the "Generation Gap."

1980: Ross Henry Larson was our pastor, Charles Olson was choir director and Martha Schurke was organist. ... IPLC decided to sponsor a refugee family and was eagerly awaiting the arrival of the seven-member Nguyen family of Vietnam.

1990: Our pastor was the Rev. Richard A. Poole, Joseph A. Humme was the minister of music, and John Frank was president of the Church Council. "The Tidings," edited by church secretary Lois Schill, was published twice a month.

2000: At the start of the new millennium, the Rev. Kendrick Wm. Suter was in his seventh year as IPLC pastor. Roger Bingaman was director of music, and Kristine Krause was editor of the Tidings, which was published twice a month.

February

1910: The Ruth Circle held its "Annual Sale and Entertainment" at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19, at Race's Hall, 4256 Irving Park Blvd., across from the Northwestern Railroad Station. Admission: adults, 15 cents; children, 10 cents.

1920: Our first church building was used from Feb. 5, 1905, until the present church opened in 1917. In 1920, the old church had been at its new location (the site of the Educational Building) for three years. Today, it is at 4017 N. Harding.

1930: The Senior Luther League held a "Lin-Val-Wash" Social on Feb. 18. Three talks were given: The first was on Lincoln, the second on Christian love and patriotism and the third on Pastor Joshua Oden and his WWI Army experiences.

1940: IPLC offered use of the Educational Building to members of Swedish Mission Covenant Church (at Monticello and Berteau) after its church building was destroyed by a fire on Jan. 28. ... The annual Midwinter Festival took place Feb. 16.

1950: The Scout Banquet was held on Friday, Feb. 10, in the Educational Building. It was believed to be the first time the Girl Scouts were included in the annual celebration. Robert Nelson provided the accordion music at the event.

(Continued on page 3)

1960: Donna Jean Holmquist and Lynn Noreen volunteered to serve as counselors when the Confirmation classes went on a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry on Feb. 13.

1970: Lenten Youth Services were held each Wednesday during Lent. ... On Feb. 22, Chris Brink and Elmer Haneberg represented IPLC in the Junior All-Star basketball game at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 3500 N. Harlem.

1980: Hilda Friberg, IPLC's oldest member, died Feb. 22 at age 97. The Friberg family officially joined IPLC in 1920. Pastor Oden baptized their youngest daughter, Beda, in 1917. Today, "Beda" is Elizabeth Greenslade, and is in her 93rd year at IPLC.

1990: On Friday, Feb. 9, about half of the Sunday School met in Victory Hall to make Valentines for members who were not able to attend church as often as they'd like. The Sunday School has maintained the Valentine tradition through the years.

2000: A second fund-raising event in the Lutheran Church Men's film series was held Feb. 25 to support the LCM dinner-lecture series. ... The Fine Arts Committee concert Feb. 27 featured clarinetist Wagner Campos and pianist Roderick Ferguson.

March

1910: Mrs. A. Johnson advertised her Home Bakery in the Forsamlings-Bladet (predecessor of The Tidings). She offered fine bread and biscuits, cakes and pies made on short notice in her kitchen at the northwest corner of Drake and Berteau.

1920: Church member Carl A. Benson, who worked for the Kimball Organ Co., worked to enlarge the church organ. He planned the work, bought the pipes and donated \$1,500 worth of labor. The project cost IPLC only \$500.

1930: Mr. Albert Ahlberg took members of the Junior League for a stargazing trip on the evening of March 5. There was not a cloud in the sky. Mr. Ahlberg pointed out the various constellations and told legendary stories connected to many of them.

1940: The Ladies Society celebrated its 36th year of service to IPLC at a luncheon on March 6. ... It was noted in the March Tidings that Peter Alfred Carlson, who became one of IPLC's charter members on Dec. 30, 1903, passed away at age 74.

1950: The Women's Guild announced plans for a Rummage Sale in April. ... Senior Luther League member Dorothy Helgeson reported that the group attended a fellowship service at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel at the University of Chicago.

1960: The church hosted the annual American Lutheran Church Women district meeting on March 16. The Rev. Roswell Peterson, pastor of Ebenezer Lutheran Church on Foster, gave highlights of his recent trip to Europe.

1970: Girl Scout Sunday was celebrated on March 8. There were more than 40 girls combined in the Girl Scout programs. ... The all-female Treble Choir sang at every 9:30 a.m. worship service, and the Senior Choir sang at every 11 a.m. service.

1980: The undefeated IPLC volleyball team won a third consecutive city title and permanent possession of the L.A.A. championship trophy. Two months later, weekly "Chicken Fat Volleyball" began for anyone "who needs exercise."

1990: A square dance was held March 31 in the Educational Building, with the proceeds going to the Magic Mushroom summer program. ... The church was enjoying the new sanctuary sound system donated by Reuben and Evelyn Erickson.

2000: The Sunday School children raised more than \$4,000 during Lent to help build 10 new homes in South Africa. ... The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was held on March 7, with proceeds also going to the Magic Mushroom program.

The Sr. High Sunday School class has been doing some interesting things this year. We began the year making a sidewalk mural about our place in God's world to go with the theme "God's World, Our Hands". We have learned about hunger in the world and played "Hunger Jeopardy". We touched briefly on Genetics and Lutheran Ethics. We made Christmas cards for shut ins and snack mix to sell at the WELCA bake sale. We spent several weeks watching "Gran Torino" (which I highly recommend) and discussing its themes. We now are studying a series on how we got the Bible as we know it. We would like to watch "Schlinders List" and "Chariots of Fire" if anybody has a DVD we can borrow. We will be participating in a project our intern, Zach, is organizing. We meet at 9am Sunday mornings outside of Pastor's office. Light breakfast is always available.

MAGIC MUSHROOM PROGRESS

By Lee Samsami Stein

I would like to offer a sincere, warm thank you to everyone who came to help out at the set-up night and supper for Shrove Tuesday. As you may already know, this event is a communal one, and it takes the hands of all—young and old—to lift off the ground!

Although proceeds did not add up to last year's efforts, the pancake supper was successful. We made about \$150 from the bake sale and about \$1200.00 in admissions. Next year we plan to print tickets, so anyone who will not be able to make it to the supper will at least be able to support the program by purchasing a ticket.

To date, we've enrolled about 45 children in Magic Mushroom. On March 20th, Darcie Wadycki and I plan to attend a "summer camp fair" at Disney II school from 9-10 a.m. This will be a great way to reach additional new families.

In other good news, in January, Roberta Bole and I went to a Thrivent Financial board meeting and made a detailed and heartfelt presentation about Magic Mushroom and its position as a viable outreach to the community. This turned out to be very worthwhile, as the members of Thrivent agreed to donate a Hands-On Fund of \$1600.00! For those who are not aware of this faith-based member organization, Thrivent Financial's mission is to improve the quality of life of its members, their families and their communities by providing solutions that focus on financial security, wellness and caring for others. You can find out more about Thrivent

by visiting www.thrivent.com.

At the moment, I'm working on solidifying our teaching staff, pushing publicity for MM enrollment and learning about our curriculum, which is called "Baobab Blast," by Augsburg Fortress. In April, the younger sector can look for applications to apply as Magic Mushroom aides. If you are between the ages of 13 and 15 and are looking for a summer work experience, drop me a line!

If you are interested in enrolling your child in Magic Mushroom, there are enrollment forms in the church office. Also, you may register your child at the Carlson Chili Supper on May 7th from 5 to 7 p.m. Call the church office at 773-267-1667 if you have any questions.

As spring approaches (and not soon enough!), think about giving generously to the Magic Mushroom program at the Mother's Day worship service, which is May 9th.

I'll end this article with something that I learned from this summer's curriculum: Found in Africa, the baobab (bā'ōbāb) is an enormous tree that creates its own ecosystem. They are one of the world's oldest life forms, and the tree serves as a meeting place for many people to gather, discuss, and share stories. It is the hub of activity, energy, and life. The baobab tree supports and invites community. In fact, the baobab tree is a symbol of community!

Thank you.

'NONES' ARE GAINING GROUND

According to the recent "American Religious Identification Survey," 15 percent of Americans now identify with no religion. If the trend continues, experts predict that people with no religious affiliation could soon surpass the nation's largest denominations.

"Nones aren't a fringe group anymore and are now part of middle America," says demographer and study coauthor Ariela Keysar, quoted in USA Today last year. "They're present in every socio-demographic group."

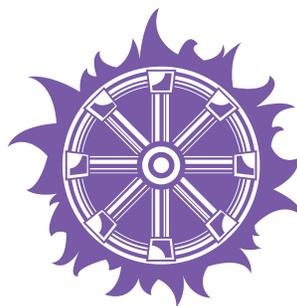
Although "Nones" reject organized religion, half still believe in God or a higher power. Interestingly, Nones are the only major U.S. "faith group" consisting mostly of males.

Lead researcher Barry Kosmin said people have many misconceptions about Nones. "They're not New Age searchers or spiritual or even hardened atheists. They're a stew of agnostics, deists and rationalists. [They're] skeptical about organized religion and clerics while still holding to an idea of God."

Hearing about all the "Nones" gives us even more reason to go out and share our faith with someone.

+ CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS +

WHEEL



A rotating wheel symbolizes God's divine force. Wheels with flames shooting out often portray God's throne, based on Ezekiel's vision (see 1:1-18). Some artists also show a burning wheel when God sends Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden.

THE CROSS IS PIVOTAL

Pivotal means crucial or absolutely necessary. Such is the cross on which Jesus died. It represents salvation from sin and death. To see sin in all its cruelty and depravity, look at the cross. The cross can jar a person to the core.

In his parent's bedroom, a teenager noticed a picture he'd never paid attention to before. It was a vivid scene of the Crucifixion. As the boy studied it, his emotions began to stir. He saw the helpless Christ dying, the helmeted soldiers bearing spears, the crowd seething with hatred. Jesus was pinned to the cross, bleeding and helpless. Mary stood nearby, consumed by grief.

The picture revealed sin and its results: suffering and death. What if the room had a different picture, with an empty tomb and an angel announcing Christ's resurrection? Those represent that God loves mankind so much he still wants to save us, no matter what we've done.

"May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14, NRSV).

AMAZING GRATITUDE

John Chrysostom was an early church father who lived in Constantinople in the fourth century A.D. He spoke plainly against all kinds of iniquity. Unfortunately, his preaching made immoral people uncomfortable, so he was exiled from the city.

When Chrysostom wrote letters to people who had befriended him, he ended every letter with the words, "Praise God for all things!"

Faithful souls truly do praise God for all things. After all, it is life's hurtful, painful blows that compel us to seek his mercy and guidance. God's love enables us to praise him for everything — no matter what.

KING OF KINGS



During Jesus' earthly life, colored cloth was very expensive. Only royalty and wealthy people could afford it. When Jesus was arrested and sentenced to die, the soldiers set about humiliating him (see Mark 15:16-20, NRSV). They found a purple cloak — the color of royalty — and put it on him. Then they placed a crown of thorns on Jesus' head. "Hail, King of the Jews!" they mockingly cried. The soldiers hit Jesus with a reed and spat on him. They taunted him and knelt before him, pretending to honor him.

RETURN TO SENDER

The following letter was one of more than 1,000 written by IPLC members who served in the military during World War II. IPLC is trying to return original letters to the letter writers or their loved ones. Lawrence G. Nelson, a member of the 1939 Confirmation Class, wrote this letter. While we know it was written on March 2, there is no year indicated on the letter and the postmark is indecipherable. While he was in Confirmation Class, he lived at 3438 W. Irving Park Road.

March 2
England

Dear Pastor:

I hope you're not too surprised in me writing, but I just had to!

I received the church Tidings today and was very glad to receive them.

Well I don't know if you have heard that I'm now in a hospital here in England for some time. It's nothing that can't be fixed up, though. I'm up and around a bit and hope to be as good as new soon.

I must say that the chaplains here are swell and really look after us boys. Also, the American Red Cross are swell and doing a grand job.

I also hope to be back home very soon now and again resume a quiet, peaceful life and rejoin the congregation. And I really appreciate it very much.

Well, I've said just about enough so I'll close for now. So till later ...

P.F.C. Lawrence G. Nelson
Department of Patients
U.S. Army Hospital

--Ralph Greenslade



Lawrence G. Nelson
Confirmation Class
of 1939

THE RED-FACED USHER

When an elderly woman asked a church usher to seat her close to the pulpit, he tried to talk her out of it. "If you sit up front, you won't be able to sleep," he said.

The woman looked the usher square in the face and asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No, I don't," he responded.

"Well," she said firmly, "I'm the preacher's mother."

Fully embarrassed, the usher asked, "Do you know who I am?"

"No," she answered.

"Good!" whispered the fellow. "Sit anywhere you want."

MARCH 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 3-6 MAP 7-9 Boy Scouts	2 9 We Got Game 7 Cub Scouts 3-6 MAP 8 Basketball	3 9-12 Jammin' 3-6 MAP 6:15 Lenten Meal 7 Girl Scouts 7:30 Lenten Service 8 Chancel Choir	4 9-10:30 We Got Game 10:30 Unschoolers 3-6 MAP	5 9-12 Jammin' with Julie 3-6 MAP 7-9 Alkies Only 7 Women's VB 9-11 Volley	6 9 Confirmation 10:30 Basketball
7 9 Chapel 9 Ault Ed, Sunday School 1030 Worship 1130 Ensemble 5 Chili Supper	8 3-6 MAP 7-9 Boy Scouts 7:30 Council	9 9-10:30 We Got Game 3-6 MAP 6:30 Sophie's Cafe 7-8:30 Cub Scouts 8:30 -10 BBall	10 9-12 Jammin' 3-6 MAP 6:15 Lenten Meal 7 Girl Scouts 7:30 Lenten Service 8 Chancel Choir	11 9-10:30 We Got Game 3-6 MAP	12 9-12 Jammin' with Julie 3-6 MAP 7-9 Alkies Only 7 Women's VB 9-11 Volley	13 1030 BBall
14 9 Chapel 9 Ault Ed, Sunday School 1030 Worship 1130 Ensemble 5 Venice Effect	15 3-6 MAP 7-9 Boy Scouts 7:30 Miriam Circle	16 9-10:30 We Got Game 7 Cub Scouts 3-6 MAP 8 Basketball	17 9-12 Jammin' 3-6 MAP 6:15 Lenten Meal 7 Girl Scouts 7:30 Lenten Service 8 Chancel Choir	18 9-10:30 We Got Game 10:30 Unschoolers 3-6 MAP	19 9-12 Jammin' with Julie 3-6 MAP 7-9 Alkies 7 Women's VB 9-11 Volley	20 9 Confirmation 1030 BBall
21 9 Chapel 9 Ault Ed, Sunday School 1030 Worship 1130 Ensemble 3 Jupiter 5 Venice Effect	22 3-6 MAP 7-9 Boy Scouts	23 9 W.G.G. 3-6 MAP 6:30 Team Night 7-8:30 Cub Scouts 8:30 -10 BBall	24 9-12 Jammin' 3-6 MAP 6:15 Meal 7:30 Lent Service 7 Girl Scouts 8 Chancel Choir	25 9-10:30 We Got Game 3-6 MAP	26 9-12 Jammin' with Julie 3-6 MAP 7 Women's VB 7-9 Alkies Only	27 1030 BBall
28 Palm Sunday Bake Sale 9 Chapel 9 Ault Ed, Sunday School 1030 Worship 1130 Ensemble 5 Venice	29 7 Boy Scouts	30 9 W.G.G. 7-8:30 Cub Scouts 8:30 -10 BBall	31 7 Bells 8 Chancel Choir			



TIDINGS

From Irving Park Lutheran Church

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Rev. Brooke Petersen, Pastor

pastorpetersen@iplc.org

IPLC Office

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SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday

9:00 am Worship in the Chapel

9:00 am Adult Ed and Sunday School

10:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary

7:30 pm Wednesdays in Lent

STAFF

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Roger Bingaman

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Volunteer Sunday School Superintendent

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Dwan Buetow

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Chris Richard

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Dawn Benson & Phil Bole

Custodians: *custodian@iplc.org*

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Phil Bole

Paul Clausen

Pat Desecki

Sue Geisler

David Hall

Elmer Haneberg

Jill Hjelmgren

Sharon Iverson

Genia Jahrke

Eleanor Kepp

Holly Lundquist

Karen Lurie

Lynette Schroeter

Sandra Stumme

Darcie Wadycki

COUNCIL PERSON EMERITUS

Lloyd DaMask

Gordon Johnson

Richard Wielock

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Peter Monroe, Walter Rucinski
- 3 George Schill Jr.
- 5 Max Haneberg
- 7 Jack Haneberg
- 11 Nicholas Monroe
- 12 Sophia Bushell, Ruth Clausen
Eleanor Kepp
- 13 James Monroe, Harrison Raygor
- 14 Corey Wojtkiewicz
- 15 Ellen Wheeler
- 16 David Badinger
- 19 Jacqueline Blanco
- 20 Emma Helgeson, Lucas Helgeson
- 20 Anderson Neff
- 21 Emma Van Essen
- 22 Larissa Mariano
- 23 Ray Helgeson
- 25 Cindy Kuhn
- 27 Brooke Bonniwell
- 29 Melanie Reschke
- 30 Beverly Harrington, Cathy Kimball
Terrence Kiser, Franklin Lurie

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Karl & Cindy Kuhn 3-6-1993

ACOLYTE & LECTOR SCHEDULE

- | | | |
|----|------------------|-----------------|
| 7 | Emma Helgeson | Elmer Hanneberg |
| 14 | Sarah Rogers | Girl Scouts |
| 21 | Danielle Desecki | Faith Stein |
| 28 | Andy Fogelis | Eleanor Kepp |

ASSISTING MINISTER COMMUNION ASSISTANT

- | | | |
|----|--------------|----------------|
| 7 | Rick Reschke | Jan Glure |
| 14 | Lee Stein | Sue Geisler |
| 21 | Eleanor Kepp | Sharon Iverson |
| 28 | David Hall | Fred Glure |